



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/007,355	11/07/2001	Mitchell D. Eggers	GENV-002/00US 300805-2003	3570
58249	7590	12/16/2009	EXAMINER	
COOLEY GODWARD KRONISH LLP			ALEXANDER, LYLE	
ATTN: Patent Group			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Suite 1100			1797	
777 - 6th Street, NW			MAIL DATE	
WASHINGTON, DC 20001			12/16/2009	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/007,355	EGGERS, MITCHELL D.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LYLE A. ALEXANDER	1797	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-40 and 58-69 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-40 and 58-69 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. 	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-40 and 58-69 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 115-121,134-137,148-150,158-165 of copending Application No. 10/150,771. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both are directed to a sample carrier comprising a structural array having a plurality of node, optically labeled identification means and means to control/locate each sample.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-40 and 58-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by WO 96/11046.

WO 96/11046 describes on pages 18-19 an apparatus(100) for tracking a processing biological samples. The apparatus(100) comprises identification station(101), tracking station(102) and processing station(103). Biological sample are deposited and dried a sample card(104). Each card(104) has identifying indicia(106). Each card(104) containing a dried sample is placed in a stacker(107). Tracking station(102) removes a portion of the sample from card(104) and the removed sample portion is received by a container that will be processed by station(103). Page 7 lines 6 and 27 teach polystyrene and cellulose as a suitable sample support material. Further, page 18 lines 19-23 teach cellulose, paper and filter paper are preferred substrates. Page 10 line 26 teaches the substrate surface can be “derivatized.”

The Office has read the claimed “structural array” on the taught stacker(107). The Office has interpreted “discrete” as “a separate entity, or a combination of distinct and unconnected elements.” The Office has read the taught card(104) on the claimed “a plurality of discrete sample node.” The Office maintains each card(104) is “discrete” because each card(104) is a separate entity that is unconnected to other cards(104). Further, the taught transfer of the card(104) from the stacker(107) to the identification station(101) has been read on the claimed “... nodes being removably attached to said structural array ...”. Finally, because WO 96/11046 teaches all of the claimed support materials, the Office maintains these materials would inherently meet the claimed limitations of the support being positively or negatively charged.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/2/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue Williams does not teach the invention as described and depicted in the specification and drawings. These remarks are not commensurate in scope with the pending claims which do not include the argued limitations. The Office maintains the instant claims have been properly rejected. Applicants state Williams does not teach the sample nodes are reversibly attached. Again these remarks are not commensurate in scope with the pending claims directed to "removably attached". The Office maintains Williams teaches the nodes are removable, as acknowledged by Applicants on page 2 of their 8/20/09 remarks, and have been properly read on the instant claims.

Applicants state Williams fails to teach the claimed "discrete sample nodes". The Office maintains Williams teaches card(104) with a distinct indicia(106) and has been properly read on the claimed "discrete sample nodes".

The remainder of Applicants remarks address the prior BPAI decision which is not at issue in light of the above new grounds of rejections.

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LYLE A. ALEXANDER whose telephone number is (571)272-1254. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday though Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/007,355
Art Unit: 1797

Page 5

/Lyle A Alexander/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797